

Appl. No.: 09/554,387
Response dated July 25, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 26, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing serum cholesterol content in a mammal, said method comprising:

(i) providing a hypocholesteremic preparation comprising at least one component (a) selected from the group consisting of phytosterols and phytosterol esters and at least one component (b) selected from conjugated fatty acids having from about 6 to about 24 carbon atoms and glycerides of conjugated fatty acids having from about 6 to about 24 carbon atoms; and

(ii) administering the hypocholesteremic preparation to a mammal in an amount effective to reduce serum cholesterol content in the mammal.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one component (a) is selected from the group consisting of β -sitosterol, β -sitostanol, and esters thereof.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one component (a) comprises a carboxylic acid ester of a phytosterol, the carboxylic acid being of the general formula (I):



Appl. No.: 09/554,387
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wherein R¹CO represents an acyl radical having from about 2 to about 22 carbon atoms and up to about 3 carbon-carbon double bonds.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one component (a) comprises a carboxylic acid ester of β -sitostenol or β -sitostanol, the carboxylic acid being of the general formula (I):



wherein R¹CO represents an acyl radical having from about 2 to about 22 carbon atoms and up to about 3 carbon-carbon double bonds.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the carboxylic acid has from about 12 to about 18 carbon atoms.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the carboxylic acid has from about 12 to about 18 carbon atoms.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one component (b) comprises conjugated linoleic acid.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the hypocholesteremic preparation is encapsulated in gelatin, whereby a gelatin capsule is provided, prior to administering the preparation to the mammal.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the at least one component (a) and the at least one component (b) are each independently present in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the gelatin capsule.

Appl. No.: 09/554,387
Response dated July 25, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 26, 2005

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the hypocholesteremic preparation is combined with a foodstuff prior to administering the preparation to the mammal.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A hypocholesteremic preparation comprising at least one component (a) selected from the group consisting of phytosterols and phytosterol esters and at least one component (b) selected from conjugated fatty acids having from about 6 to about 24 carbon atoms and glycerides of conjugated fatty acids having from about 6 to about 24 carbon atoms.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The hypocholesteremic preparation according to claim 21, wherein the at least one component (a) is selected from the group consisting of β -sitosterol, β -sitostanol, and esters thereof.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The hypocholesteremic preparation according to claim 21, wherein the at least one component (a) comprises a carboxylic acid ester of a phytosterol, the carboxylic acid being of the general formula (I):



wherein R^1CO represents an acyl radical having from about 2 to about 22 carbon atoms and up to about 3 carbon-carbon double bonds.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The hypocholesteremic preparation according to claim 22, wherein the at least one component (a) comprises a carboxylic acid ester of β -sitosterol or β -sitostanol, the carboxylic acid being of the general formula (I):



Appl. No.: 09/554,387
Response dated July 25, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 26, 2005

wherein R^1CO represents an acyl radical having from about 2 to about 22 carbon atoms and up to about 3 carbon-carbon double bonds.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The hypocholesteremic preparation according to claim 23, wherein the carboxylic acid has from about 12 to about 18 carbon atoms.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The hypocholesteremic preparation according to claim 24, wherein the carboxylic acid has from about 12 to about 18 carbon atoms.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The hypocholesteremic preparation according to claim 21, wherein the at least one component (b) comprises conjugated linoleic acid.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The hypocholesteremic preparation according to claim 21, wherein the preparation is encapsulated in gelatin, in order to form a gelatin capsule.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The hypocholesteremic preparation according to claim 28, wherein the at least one component (a) and the at least one component (b) are each independently present in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the gelatin capsule.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The hypocholesteremic preparation according to claim 21, wherein the hypocholesteremic preparation is combined with a foodstuff.

Claim 31. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the at least one component (a) and the at least one component (b) are each independently present in an amount of from about 5 to

Appl. No.: 09/554,387
Response dated July 25, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 26, 2005

about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the gelatin capsule.

Claim 32. (New) The hypocholesteremic preparation according to claim 29, wherein the at least one component (a) and the at least one component (b) are each independently present in an amount of from about 5 to about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the gelatin capsule.